the food processing industries. Investment especially from private sector is expected to increase accordingly.

(d) The investment mainly from the Department of Biotechnology since 1997 for the promotion of biotechnology in the country is given below:

Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Expenditure *(Rs. in Crores)*	85.22	104.46	116.38	140.90	174.94

In addition, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Department of Science and Technology and other Ministries are also investing on specific projects and activities and on their autonomous institutions.

Fuel Cell Technology

1469. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5243 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 2003 and state:

(a) whether research work on various R&D aspects of fuel cell technology is being progressed towards their production on a commercial scale; and

(b) whether there is any co-ordination in this regard with other Government Ministries, especially Petroleum and Natural Gas, Road Transport and Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. R&D efforts are being made to improve performance as well as to reduce the cost of the fuel cells, so that eventually they became cost effective and, therefore, commercialisable.

(b) Yes, Sir. Besides relevant ministries, some partners from public sector and private industries are also involved in the developmental efforts.